heavy demand for travel of various VIPs which included Union Minister, Members of Parliament and Speaker and Ministers of Bihar Government. Due to heavy rush, the Emergency Quota controlling staff inadvertently failed to allot accommodation to Shri Ram Deo Bhandary, MP. For this lapse, suitable action is being taken against the staff concerned.

Reported Forfeiture of Berth of a Women Passenger

@ 2307. SHRI RAM DEO BHANDARY. Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the newsitem published in the 'Navbharat Times' on 24th July, 2000 under the caption "Kam Umra ka batakar mahila railyatri kee berth cheen lee";

(b) if so, the comprehensive details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have taken any action in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) As per Press report, a lady passenger, aged 20 years had confirmed reservation in Coach Number S-5 of Vikramshila—Magadh Express leaving Bhagalpur on 20.7.2000. The Coach Travelling Ticket Examiner (TTE) allegedly compelled her to leave her reserved berth on the ground that she did not appear to be 20 years old and allotted the same berth to some other passenger after collection of some amount unauthorisedly. The TTE reportedly did not listen to the plea of the passenger and insisted on purchase of another ticket leading to harassment of the party.

(c) The matter is under investigation by Eastern Railway.

Procurement of Locomotives and Coaches

2308. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

@ Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.